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**JANUARY 19-31, 2015**



**Carl Heastie**  
Speaker of the  
New York State Assembly

# Heastie Elected First African-American Assembly Speaker

*SEE PAGE 5*



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## Bronx Tax Preparer on Felony Tax Charges

*Turn to page 5*



**Ramarley Family  
Settles For \$3.9M**

*Turn to page 5*



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# EDITORIAL

## Jamaica should profit from the decriminalizing of Marijuana

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ranks Jamaica as 10th place and the United States at 3rd for the use of illegal drugs, including marijuana (ganja, pot, or weed).

Marijuana is without a doubt one of the most popular and controversial plants in the world. Since the early 20th century the plant has been subjected to legal restrictions with the possession, use, and sale of cannabis preparations containing psychoactive cannabinoids currently illegal in most countries of the world.

The United Nations (UN) deems it the most-used illicit drug in the world. In 2004, the UN estimated global annual consumption of cannabis at approximately 4 percent of the adult world population (162 million people) and daily

cannabis use of about 0.6 percent (22.5 million).

Furthermore, Cannabis plant as a physician-recommended herbal therapy is mushrooming across the world, including in Canada, Belgium, Australia, the Netherlands, Spain, and several U.S. states.

The marijuana industry is now being valued in the billions of dollars and several countries are seeking to profit from its nutritional and medical values.

According to the UN data, less than 10 percent of the Jamaican population use Marijuana. However, the island is known to be a major producer and distributor of the herb to the USA and Canada.

With pressure from the US, Jamaica has been forced to honor

several Conventions on Narcotic Drugs, pledging international cooperation to limit the spread of illegal substances.

While the production and use of Marijuana continues to be illegal in most countries, the campaign for legalization is rapidly outpacing opposition.

Scores of countries and four USA states—Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska, as well as the District of Columbia -- have passed measures to legalize marijuana use, while an additional 14 states have decriminalized certain amounts of marijuana possession, while nearly half of the states allow medical marijuana.

With pressure from the US, Jamaica during the past 50 years continues to uphold “anti-marijuana laws” and put thousands of its

citizens into criminals, while failing to explore the profit and other advantages of the plant.

However, the Jamaican government smells the weed and is taking the right steps to stop the “anti-marijuana regulations.” The Jamaican Justice Minister Mark Golding last Thursday announced a proposal to decriminalize personal possession of Marijuana, known locally as ‘ganja.’ The proposal would also allow the plant’s use in medical, scientific and religious settings. Along with reducing the burden of harsh marijuana penalties, the new laws aim to “secure the economic and medical benefits of ganja.”

Jamaica should continue to seek appropriate ways to profit from decriminalizing of Marijuana.



The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to [editor@streethypenewspaper.com](mailto:editor@streethypenewspaper.com). Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published

## People Are Talking...!

## Why I created Students Aid Inc.

For international students studying in the USA, it can be a very rewarding experience and can provide them with the opportunity to experience a new culture, meet new people, and forge new friendships.

However, with these experiences you have many challenges such as finance. Many students are faced with the realization that paying for college can cost more than some people's yearly salaries. The rise of inflation, the budget crisis and other annual expenses are among of the reasons colleges have become financially unattainable for some individuals.

While there are government grants and financial aid for American citizen, this is not the case for many international students. I recently sat with a high school principal in Jamaica who expressed that although there are scholarships for international students such as students from Asia, there is a lack of funding for Caribbean students especially Jamaicans who want to study in USA, Canada, UK, etc.

While I fully support President Obama President Obama's initiative where he wants “100,000 Caribbean students in the USA over the next three years,” we still need infrastructure in place to support this initiative. For example, international students have to pay higher tuition to universities, compared to local students.

For international students coming from developing countries, the exchange rate between US dollar and their domestic currencies is very high. I would love all universities in the USA to maintain the same tuition rate for all their students and not to charge more money because they are from another country.



**Dr Neva Alexander SPEAKS**

I am trying to do my part, by transforming the Dr. Neva's foundation into the Students Aid Inc. ([www.studentsaid.org](http://www.studentsaid.org)). Students Aid aims to be a part of the solution. This is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on aid for international students by providing gap funding.

We have a lot of bright minds in the Caribbean but too many of our students are not able to complete their education in America because of money.



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## NEWS

## Standard & Poor's Alleging Inflated Mortgage

Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC (S&P) and its parent company, McGraw-Hill Financial Inc., entered into a \$210 million settlement to resolve federal and state civil claims related to S&P's conduct in inflating ratings of residential mortgage-backed securities and structured investment vehicle notes.

Combined with a separate settlement resolving a lawsuit filed by the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), S&P will pay a total of \$1.5 billion to federal and state government entities. The State of California, through its Attorney General, will recover \$210 million in damages, from which CalPERS and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) will receive allocations for their losses on

investments of certain S&P-rated securities. Separately, S&P will also pay CalPERS \$125 million to settle CalPERS' specific lawsuit. The remainder of the total settlement proceeds will be distributed amongst the U.S. Department of Justice and the other nineteen attorneys general.

An investigation showed that S&P systematically misrepresented to the public, and to CalPERS and CalSTRS, that its ratings of structured finance securities were based on an objective and reliable analysis and not influenced by S&P's economic interests. Investors relied on these ratings to invest in the structured finance securities, the collapse of which led to the financial crisis.

## CARIBBEAN CULTURE WEEK FEBRUARY 15-21

Coalition to Preserve Reggae Music Inc., presents Caribbean Culture Week 2015. This weeklong Black History Month celebration of Caribbean contributions to America and world culture begins on Sunday, February 15th with an ecumenical service hosted by Reverend Charmin Lashley and the congregation of Kings Highway United Methodist Church, located at 1387 East 37th Street, corner of Kings Highway in Brooklyn.

The service begins at 11:00 AM, and will be followed by a reception and discussion of Caribbean contributions to America.

On Tuesday, February 17th, the observances move to Medgar Evers College in

Brooklyn for three events under the auspices of the Student Life and Development program, directed by Hayden Greene. On Tuesday, a roundtable discussion exploring the nuances of reparations and repatriation takes place in the President's Conference Room, Room 108 at 1650 Bedford Avenue, starting at 6:00 PM.

Panelists include Attorney Roger Wareham of the December 12 Movement, Film maker, Karen Mafundikwa, director of the film The Price of Memory and activist, Chaka Cousins.

For further information please call 7184216927 or email: info@cprreggae.org

## Malcolm Found Guilty in Bribe Scheme

WHITE PLAINS:

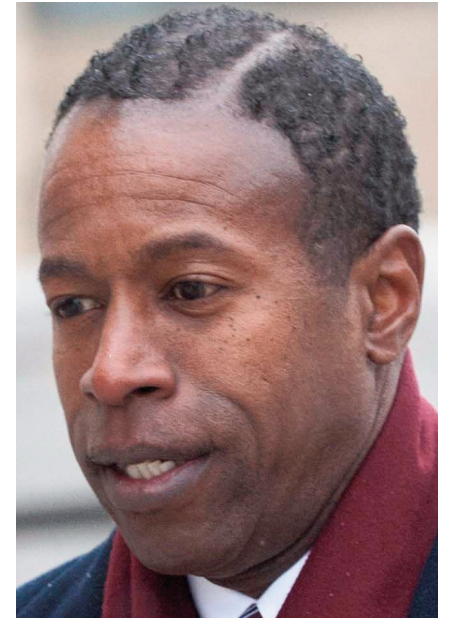
Former Democratic state Sen. Malcolm Smith has been found guilty of scheming to bribe Republican party leaders so he could run on the GOP line in a New York City mayoral race, making him the latest ex-Albany leader to be convicted of corruption.

A federal jury convicted Smith Thursday of all four charges, including bribery conspiracy, wire fraud, use of interstate facilities to commit bribery and extortion.

Smith and former councilman Dan Halloran were arrested in April 2013 on conspiracy, wire fraud and extortion charges after the pair allegedly plotted to get Smith onto the ballot by paying off GOP county chairmen. Because he's a Democrat, Smith would have needed three leaders' permission.

The indictment alleged two Republican Party leaders, including Smith's co-defendant, former Queens Republican Vice Chairman Vincent Tabone, accepted tens of thousands of dollars in exchange for helping get Smith on the ballot.

Tabone was convicted Thursday of bribery and witness tampering, among other crimes.



Malcolm Smith

A first trial for Smith ended in a mistrial in June 2014 because of conflicts with jurors' schedules.

The jurors had only committed to stay with the case through late June and, because of their schedules, could not commit for another month, the judge said.

Smith is the latest line in Albany's corrupt legacy. Sheldon Silver, speaker of the State Assembly for more than two decades, was arrested late last month on federal corruption charges. He has said he will be vindicated. Last week, NBC 4 New York reported federal investigators are looking into state Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos' sources of income in connection with a broader corruption probe.

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## NEWS

# Heastie elected First African-American state Assembly speaker

By Patrick Maitland  
Editor- Street Hype

Carl Heastie of The Bronx was elected Speaker of the New York State Assembly on Feb. 3, 2015, replacing disgraced ex-leader Sheldon Silver.

Heastie, 47, became the state's first African-American speaker and the first speaker to hail from the Bronx. He represents the 83rd District and is also the county leader of the Democratic Party in the Bronx.

The State Assembly, for the first time in two decades, voted overwhelmingly in Albany to elect Heastie to lead the 150-member body.

The new leader promised to focus on ethics and integrity after colleagues elect-

ed him speaker, replacing Silver whose two-decade reign ended with federal corruption charges.

Heastie vowed to create a new office of ethics compliance and take other steps to clean up Albany's tradition of corruption and backroom dealing. "We will change the cynicism into trust," Heastie said. "Our state deserves a government as good as its people."

"New York City needs a strong voice in Albany -- and the election of Carl Heastie as Speaker of the State Assembly will ensure that our needs are heard and met," Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

The speaker is one of the most important positions in state government. Heastie will direct the flow of legislation, set committee assignments and direct



Carl Heastie, 47  
Speaker, New York State Assembly

budget negotiations with Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Republican-controlled state Senate.

Since joining the Assembly, Heastie became one of the lead negotiators for the construction of a new K-8 school in his district. He has also sponsored legislation to require mandatory reporting of alleged child abuse of students in New York City.

He earned a BS in Applied Mathematics/Statistics from the Stony Brook University (then the State University of New York at Stony Brook) and an MBA from the Bernard M. Baruch College at the City University of New York. Before his election to the Assembly, Heastie worked as a budget analyst for the New York City Comptroller.

## Bronx Tax Preparer on Felony Tax Charges

Bronx resident Raul Kelley, 48, was arrested Monday (January 26) on three felony charges stemming from his business as a tax preparer, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Commissioner Thomas H. Mattox announced.

A complaint filed with Albany City Court charged Kelley with the following crimes: Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony; and, Attempted Grand

Larceny in the Third Degree, a class E felony.

According to the complaint, the investigation revealed that Kelley, of 1019 E. 222nd St., Bronx, had been hired to prepare a personal income tax return for two taxpayers and file it with the State of New York, despite not being registered with the State as a tax preparer. The complaint accuses Kelley, who worked on returns from his home address, of grossly inflating the taxpayers' job expenses for 2012 from \$1,500 to \$97,120 against wages of \$98,212. This resulted in the return showing a refund of

\$4,432, to which the taxpayers were not entitled. In contrast, the complaint further alleges that had job expenses of only \$1,500 been claimed, the return should have reported that the taxpayers owed the State \$1,434.

"New Yorkers should take every precaution to ensure their tax preparers are legitimate and registered with the State," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "We will do everything in our power to punish those who rip off New Yorkers, whether it's an illegal tax preparer or an individual filing false insurance claims. Tax preparers who

engage in fraud will be held accountable."

Commissioner Mattox encouraged taxpayers to ensure that tax preparers are registered with New York State by using the Tax Department's searchable online database of 40,000 tax preparers. Certified public accountants, attorneys and enrolled agents have other professional requirements and are, therefore, not required to be registered.

The Honorable Rachel Kretser arraigned Kelley on the complaint Monday and set bail in the amount of \$7,500 bond/\$3,000 cash.

## Ramarley Graham Family Gets \$3.9M

New York City agreed last Friday to pay \$3.9 million to the family of a black Bronx teenager shot to death by a white police officer in 2012.

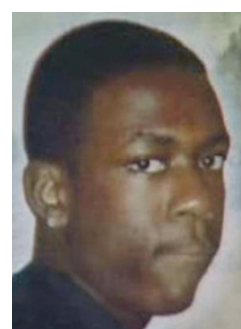
The deal settled a federal lawsuit brought by the family of 18-year-old Ramarley Graham. Besides emotional damages, the family also sought compensation for their alleged mistreatment by police who detained them after the shooting.

City Law Department spokesman Nick Paolucci said: "This was a tragic case. After evaluating all the facts, and consulting with key stakeholders such as the NYPD, it was determined that settling the matter was in the best interest of the City."

Graham's estate will receive \$2.95 million; his brother will receive \$500,000 and his grandmother \$450,000 because they were in the home at the time of the shooting, sources said. Graham's mother, Constance Malcolm, will also receive \$40,000.

"This was a tragic case," said New York Law Department spokesman Nicholas Paolucci. "After evaluating all the facts, and consulting with key stakeholders such as the NYPD, it was determined that settling the matter was in the best interest of the city."

The family of Ramarley Graham in a press statement said: "No amount of money or settlement will bring back Ramarley. We want NYPD officer Richard Haste and all other officers who were present and responsible held accountable. They should be charged and pros-



Ramarley Graham

ecuted for murdering our son. Haste and others responsible should be removed from the police force and punished for their crime. We won't rest until we get justice for Ramarley. We call on U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara to prosecute Haste and others to the fullest extent of the law," said Constance Malcolm, Ramarley Graham's mother.

Graham died after he was shot once in the chest in February 2012 in the bathroom of the three-family home where he lived with his grandmother and other relatives. Richard Haste, the officer who shot him, said he fired his weapon because he thought he was going to be shot. No weapons were found in the apartment.

Haste was indicted on manslaughter charges in the summer of 2012, but charges were dismissed by a judge who said prosecutors improperly instructed grand jurors to imply they should disregard testimony from police officers that they radioed Haste in advance to warn him that they thought Graham had a pistol. A second grand jury declined to re-indict the officer.

Manhattan federal prosecutors are conducting a civil rights investigation.

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## Jamaica's trade deficit with the USA increases

KINGSTON, JAMAICA:

New data show Jamaica has been importing more goods from the United States, resulting in an increase in the trade deficit with its major trading partner.

During the period January to October last year, the value of imports from the US grew by US\$165.6 million, or 9.8%.

Total imports were valued at US\$1.85 billion, compared to \$1.69 billion during the corresponding period in 2013.

Expenditure on goods from the US accounted for 38.6 per cent of Jamaica's total imports during the ten months.

### Exports down

And according to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, during that period, the value of Jamaican exports to America fell by US\$166 million, or 25%, to US\$487 million. This comprised nearly 40 per cent of the country's total earnings from exports.

## Protest against poor road conditions in T&T

SIPARIA, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:

In Trinidad & Tobago, residents of Coora Branch Road, in the Siparia constituency of Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar, staged a fiery protest on Monday to demand improved road conditions. That followed other protests elsewhere in the constituency on Sunday.

According to the Trinidad Express newspaper, the angry residents blocked the roadway with burning debris preventing children from arriving at a nearby primary school, kindergarten and daycare centre.

The newspaper said businesses in the community were affected, including an oil service company.

Coora Branch Road was reportedly last paved about 14 years. Mindy Ganga, a local resident, said the main road was in very poor condition and two landslips had developed.

She said attempts to meet Persad-Bissessar at her Siparia constituency office and letters to Siparia Regional Corporation chairman Leo Doonath proved futile. "The last time we saw our MP in the area was five years ago when she came to ask for our support.

## Jamaican Spelling Bee Champion Coach Needs Financial Support

Dear Editor:

Many Jamaican and Caribbean nationals in the US and around the world will remember Jody-Anne Maxwell who in 1998 became the first non-American to win Scripps Spelling Bee held in Washington DC. Fewer will know or even remember her coach Rev Glen Archer OJ.

Rev Archer is currently hospitalized suffering from a life-threatening fungal infection from catheter sepsis. He has had kidney failure since 2010 and will need a kidney transplant, once he survives the fungal infection.

In Jamaica, Glen Archer – 61-years old, unmarried and without children, a trained pastor and retired teacher – is revered as the foremost academic coach for Spelling Bee – with 26 wins during the competition's 57-year history – and School's Challenge Quiz, a longstanding high school game show. Glen Archer's successes has made Ardenne High School one of the most popular, prestigious and sought after high schools in Jamaica.

Jamaica recently crowned Sara Beth McPherson 2015 National Spelling Bee Champion and Jamaica representative to to the 2015 Scripps Spelling Bee. Sara was coached by 17-year-old Glen Archer protégé, Ardenne High student Hanif Brown, also 2011 National Spelling Bee champion and semi-finalist at the 2011 Scripps Spelling Bee, placing 41 among 271 entrants.

Glen Archer, recipient of the Order of Jamaica (OJ), a national honour – who possesses uncanny similarities with Dr LaraBee, the character played by Laurence Fishburne in Spelling Bee Film 'Akeelah and the Bee' starring Keke Palmer, a story highlighting the obstacles, challenges and idiosyncrasies



**Rev Glen Archer OJ.**  
Currently hospitalized suffering from a life-threatening fungal infection from catheter sepsis.

of Spelling Bee students, parents and coaches and portraying African Americans in an atypical manner – will soon need a kidney transplant to live as his kidneys are functioning at less than 5% after costly hemodialysis treatment twice weekly since 2010.

An online crowdfunding campaign has been launched raising \$4,000 of US\$25,000.

An account was also setup with Jamaica National account 2094180809 Donations can also be made to any Jamaica National branch in the US, Canada, UK and Jamaica.

Sara Beth, sponsored by the Jamaica Gleaner, will represent Jamaica in Washington DC on May 24-29, 2015.

For more information, contact:

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## New Trinidad and Tobago attorney general under investigation

By Anika Gumbs, CCN

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad -- Just 48 hours after Garvin Nicholas was appointed as the country's new attorney general, a matter involving him has been referred to the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) for investigation.

The issue is he may have attempted to practice as an attorney, even though he was not yet called to the local Bar.

Lawyers familiar with the issue are calling on LATT to probe whether due diligence was conducted before Nicholas was appointed attorney general to replace Anand Ramlogan.

The incident occurred in 2001 when Nicholas was on a six-month pupillage at Trinity Chambers in Port of Spain, when he was cautioned in writing about breaching the Legal Profession Act (LPA) by Desmond Allum SC (now deceased), who was head of Trinity Chambers at the time, after it was discovered he printed business cards representing himself as an attorney-at law, admitted to practice in Trinidad and Tobago.

A copy of the letter written by Allum was sent to LATT late Wednesday. Nicholas' curriculum vitae (CV) states he was awarded a

barrister-at-law degree in 2001 and was a door tenant at 3PB Chambers in the United Kingdom. The CV states he was called to the local Bar in 2002.

However, at the time Nicholas was undergoing his pupillage (2001), he had no permission to practice at the local Bar or distribute business cards to solicit new legal business.

Allum had also frowned upon a matter where it was alleged Nicholas was requesting a percentage of fees from work he had referred to attorneys while at the chambers.

Excerpts of a letter from Allum written to Nicholas and obtained by the Express read: "I refer to the meeting held with you in the presence of attorney Gregory Delzin, in the course of which during the meeting, I expressed concern over the printing of call cards which, when taken at face value, could be construed as calling yourself a practicing member of Trinity Chambers. You will recall that you were reminded that it is a breach of the LPA to hold yourself out as being entitled to practise law without having been admitted to practise, in accordance with the provisions of the LPA.



# LEGAL ISSUES

## Property Acquisition in Jamaica

(final of two part feature)

In considering property acquisition in Jamaica, you would have viewed or seen photographs of the property that influenced you to purchase the property and may have signed an offer to purchase. Also, you inspected a copy of the Certificate of Title and conducted a caveat search, which did not reveal any caveats. In proceeding with the purchase you may want to consider the following steps.

The Vendor would need to instruct his Attorney-at-Law to draft an Agreement for Sale. You should provide the Vendor or your Attorney-at-Law with pertinent details, such as the names, occupations, addresses, Taxpayer Registration Numbers and the way that ownership of the property would be shared in the case of multiples purchasers. You should also provide the name of your Attorney-at-Law, his address, telephone number and/or email address.

Upon receipt of the draft Agreement for Sale from the Vendor's Attorney-at-Law, your Attorney would review its terms and conditions, bringing his legal knowledge to bear on the process and advise you on the implications of relevant terms of the Agreement. It is the role of the Attorney to make sure that your interest is well protected. For instance, the Attorney should make sure, with exceptions, that in the event that the sale is cancelled that your deposited will be refunded. In the case of tenanted property, it is the duty of your Attorney to make sure that the Agreement for Sale requires the Vendor to give vacant possession upon completion.

Property Acquisition, though a daunting task, can be a major accomplishment for many. One would advise a prospective purchaser to seek professional assistance in embarking on the process.

The Agreement for Sale is a vital part of property acquisition and contains the terms by which the parties voluntarily agree to be bound. It is therefore imperative that the Attorney representing the purchaser ensure that the terms of the Agreement, as much as possible, favors his client. The Agreement will contain special conditions which the parties must observe in order to satisfactorily complete the transaction.

### JAMAICAN LAWS

By Lauren Boyd  
Attorney-at-Law



It is important that the purchaser observe the time period allotted under the Agreement for completion of the purchase. There are further deadlines contained within the time period of the contract, which is calculated from the date of the Agreement for Sale.

The Agreement would dictate the time for the payment of the deposit, which is usually on signing the Agreement, the time for further payments, if any and the time for the balance to be paid.

The purchaser would also have to adhere to the time for the submission of a letter of undertaking from a reputable financial institution or a firm of attorneys, confirming how the balance will be paid. Sometimes time is also made of the essence under the Agreement, which means that time will be strictly adhered to, otherwise either party could run the risk of breaching the terms of the Agreement.

The Purchaser's Attorney ought to assist his client in observing these deadlines so that the Purchaser complies with the terms of the Agreement.

*Lauren Boyd is an Attorney-at-Law licensed to practice law in Jamaica. Contact her at (917)420-9777 or laursjoy2009@gmail.com for further information on this article.*

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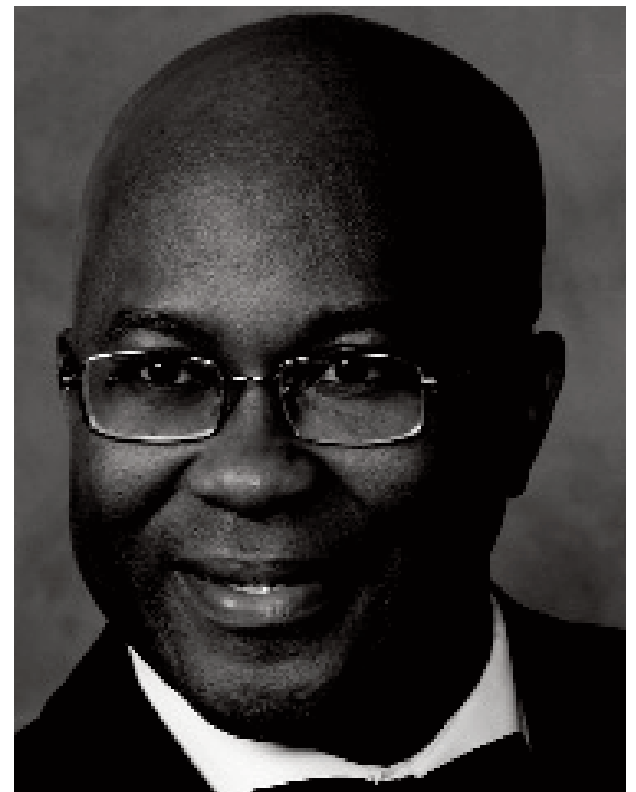
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# SPORTS



## Digicel Grand Prix Series Launched

A newly-launched series, dubbed the Digicel Grand Prix Series will see high school athletes competing in six meets, with a point-scoring system identical to the ISSA Grace Kennedy Boys' and Girls' Championships used to judge competitors.

Seven events, the 100, 200, 400 and 800 metre races, the long jump, discus and 4 x 400 metre relay will carry points at the six designated meets.

The top three athletes from each meet in each class will then qualify for the Grand Prix finals at the final meet in the series.

The boys will compete in the under-19 and under-17 categories, while the girls will compete in the under-19 and under-16 categories.

This weekend's Youngster Goldsmith Classic starts the series and will also include the Camperdown Classic, the Anthric Corporate Area Development meet, Western and Central Championships as well as the G.C. Foster Classic where the series culminates on March 14.

One million dollars in training equipment will go to the school which tops the inaugural series.



## SERENA WILLIAMS TAKES 6TH AUSTRALIAN OPEN TITLE

Serena Williams defeated Maria Sharapova of Russia on Saturday to win her sixth Australian Open and 19th Grand Slam title. The American world number one took the final 6-3 7-6 (7-5). With this, her 19th Grand Slam singles title, 33 year old Williams, moves past Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, placing her second only to Steffi Graf. She has now beaten Sharapova, the world number two, 16 times in a row, dating back to 2004.

## CPL draft kicks off 2015 T20 season

Australian Chris Lyn and Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene were among the major picks for the Jamaica Tallawahs franchise in the Caribbean Premier T20 League draft on Thursday.

The experienced Jayawardene was bought for US\$100,000, while Lyn, a hard hitting batsman was picked up for US\$70,000.

Making a return to the Tallawahs are South Africa's Rusty Theron and New Zealand's Daniel Vettori, while left arm medium pacer Krishmar Santokie returns home after being drafted by the Tallawahs.

Santokie starred for the Guyana Amazon Warriors in the first two seasons of the competition.

Guyanese Narsingh Deonarine will also be making the trip up north to the Tallawahs.

Chris Gayle, Andre Russell, Jerome Taylor and Chadwick Walton are the players retained by the Jamaican team coached by Micky Arthur.

Another Jamaican, West Indies ODI Vice Captain, Marlon Samuels, was picked up by the new franchise in St Kitts and Nevis, which also drafted big hitting allrounder Shahid Afridi.

The Sri Lankans Lasith Malinga, Tilakaratne Dilshan and Tishara Perera were all chosen by the Guyana Amazon Warriors. Shivnarine Chanderpaul also makes a return to the Warriors team.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Steel selected veteran South African Jacques Kallis and Pakistan's Kamran Akmal.

## Gayle accuses West Indies board of victimisation



Chris Gayle

Chris Gayle has accused the West Indies Cricket Board of victimisation after Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard were omitted from the World Cup squad.

Bravo and Pollard were seen as leading the player revolt, following a pay dispute with the WICB, that led to the abandonment of October's tour of India.

"There's no way you can tell me those guys shouldn't be in the team," opening batsman Gayle insisted.

"For me, it's got to be victimisation towards those two guys."

The former West Indies captain added: "Come on guys, it's just ridiculous. Honestly, it choked me up."

"I don't know where our cricket is heading with this sort of situation. It's really sad." Trinidadian all-rounders Bravo and Pollard had been told they would be left out of the World Cup squad as the Windies were building a team for the future.

"What they're telling us then, is this team selected is not going there to win the World Cup," added Gayle. "Building for

the next World Cup [in 2019] is ridiculous."

Man of the match Gayle was speaking after he, Bravo and Pollard helped West Indies complete the highest run chase in Twenty20 history in a four-wicket win

over South Africa in Johannesburg on Sunday.

West Indies open their World Cup campaign against Ireland in Nelson, New Zealand on 16 February.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Amateur Night At The Apollo 2015 Season Opens- February 18

Amateur Night at the Apollo opens its 2015 season Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30 pm with a brand new line-up of contestants who compete for the chance to perform during the March 11 Show Off and move on to Top Dog on June 3.

It all leads to the chance of winning the title of Super Top Dog and a cash prize of \$10,000 in November!

Aspiring musicians, singers, dancers, comedians, rappers and spoken word artists try their best to please the audiences that can make them an Apollo legend. Then get ready to cheer or jeer as you decide who stays and who gets booted off stage. At Amateur Night, you tell the performers to be good or be gone!

Amateur Night at the Apollo is hosted by the comedian Capone. Each show begins with a festive pre-party featuring video and music by DJ Jess. And keep a lookout for master impressionist C.P. Lacey, the resident Executioner who sweeps bad talent off the stage.



Tickets: \$32, \$26, \$20. In person at the Apollo Theater Box Office or by phone call (800) 745-3000. Online at Ticketmaster.com. For Groups Call (212) 531-5355

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## JAH CURE SIGNS TO VP RECORDS

Tiffany Mea  
Contributing Writer  
[Tiffanym@vprecords.com](mailto:Tiffanym@vprecords.com)

Jah Cure, the Jamaican singer who has long been recognized as one of reggae's greatest voices, inks a new deal with VP Records to release multiple albums, including The Cure slated for Spring 2015.

Jah Cure expresses his enthusiasm about signing to the label. "It is time for me to sign with an official company. VP is the largest distributor of reggae music and that is a fact, so I am happy to say I am in the best place right now for me. I look forward to build together and feel and sense good things to come," he says.

The artist has a history with VP Records. He released two albums - Freedom Blues (2005) and True Reflections...A New Beginning (2007) - with the label, but was not officially signed as an artist.

VP Records is thrilled to finally have the reggae



JAH CURE

icon on their roster. The company's A&R, Neil Edwards, mentions that he has "worked with Cure for over 13 years now, so this has been in the making for some time." He continues, "Cure's sound is so unique. It resonates with roots reggae listeners and r&b lovers alike."

The highly anticipated LP The Cure will be a return to roots reggae and

lover's rock with pop fused elements. Consisting of production from the island's legendary Clive Hunt and Lmar "Riff Raff" Brown (amongst many others), the collection will feature Cure's brand new singles as well as current hits like "Rasta," his John Legend cover "All of Me," "That Girl" and "Life We Live."

## Shaggy, Maxi Priest, Sanchez For Valentine's Weekend

Grammy Award Nominee and past winner SHAGGY, MAXI PRIEST and SANCHEZ at two big concerts at two landmark venues on Valentine's Weekend.

The Singers In Action-Part 4 will be held on Friday, February 13th, 2015 at NJPAC -NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark, NJ and on Saturday, February 14th, 2015 at Bam (Brooklyn Academy of Music in Brooklyn, NY).

To purchase tickets for Friday, February 13 @ NJPAC visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and for Saturday, February 14th @ BAM visit [www.BAM.org](http://www.BAM.org) or call the box office at 718.636.4100.

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## A pot smoker's view on legalizing marijuana

My name is Dennis Levy. I'm a Pot smoker from the old school. Think of Miles Davis or Snoop Dogg or young Barack Obama before he went on to Harvard and to become President of the United States. I am also President of New York State Committee to Legalize Marijuana.

Our Facebook community has over 17,000 people. That makes us the largest on-line community of pot smokers in New York State.

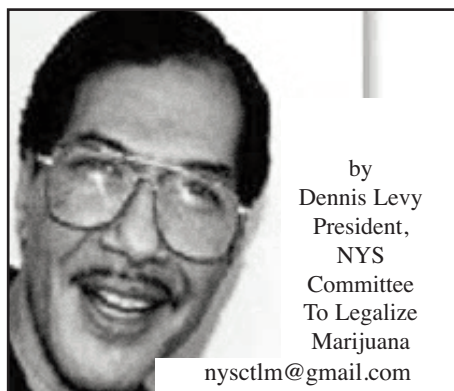
Our mission is to get pot legalized, regulated, and taxed like alcohol. Obviously, I support Senator Liz Krueger's Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). She just reintroduced her bill this year and admits it doesn't stand much chance of passing the Republican controlled Senate. What does that mean?

It's like a general telling his troops, we are going to lose before going into battle. No can do Senator. I tell my troops in the words of the great leader Marcus Garvey: Forward Ever, Backward Never

We don't usually like long dissertation or essays about the history of marijuana or its medical benefits. We just want pot legalized and regulated like alcohol or cigarettes.

We are willing to write letters to legislators in Albany and go to Albany to talk with politicians. Whatever it takes to get MRTA passed. Most of us will even go to the streets and protest if necessary. No Problem.

Some of our people are College graduates and many are married, working folks



by  
Dennis Levy  
President,  
NYS  
Committee  
To Legalize  
Marijuana  
nysctlm@gmail.com

with kids who pay taxes and vote in elections. We want to come home after work and relax by rolling up a joint without worrying about breaking the law just like many baby boomers pour a drink of a legal alcoholic beverage to relax.

Ask our community about Pot legalization and they'll tell you, "I'm smoking pot even if they don't legalize it". The majority of people in New York say they want legalized marijuana according to most surveys. We wonder why politicians in Albany won't give the people what they want. What part don't they understand? It's extremely frustrating to say "give us legalize pot" and our political leaders say "no can do".

My personal position on legalize pot is more complex and nuance than just wanting my pot to be legal. My position is simple. I agree with Michelle Alexander, writer of the New Jim Crow.

She said since Colorado and Washington made the "unprecedented move to legalize recreational pot a few years ago," we see stories of the excitement and huge success of the so called new 'Pot Barons'.

You'll find that the faces of the Pot Barons and the legalization movement are primarily white and male.

Meanwhile, many of the thousands of people arrested for marijuana possession are poor black men and women who still sit in prisons for possession of the very plant that's making those white guys on TV rich. "In many ways the imagery doesn't sit right" asserts Michelle Alexander.

I couldn't say it better. On one hand we have White men poised to run big marijuana businesses, dreaming of cashing in big i.e. getting big money from selling pot while black men from the hood get prison for selling pot and their families and futures are destroyed. The same thing is happening in New York.

White men are planning to get rich doing precisely the same thing: selling pot. Something is wrong with this picture? We need to talk about amnesty for the thousands of young, non violent men and women of color still in prison and expunging the criminal records of those caught up in the revolving door of the criminal justice system as a result of the failed war on drugs. I might not get heard over the noise of police brutality and the constant chatter about black survival in a changed world. Nevertheless, it's about fair play. Don't you think?

## EVENTS

## Awards Gala

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 @ 6:00 PM; American Foundation of the University of the West Indies presents their 18th Annual Awards Gala at The Pierre Hotel New York 61st Street (bet. Madison & 5th Avenues), New York, NY.

## Valentine's Dance

Saturday, February 14, 2015 @ 9:00 PM; Jamaican Civic & Cultural Association of Rockland presents Valentine's Dance 2015. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 26 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley. The Jamaican Civic & Cultural Association of Rockland presents Valentine's Dance 2015. This event marks the first event for 2015 as the association celebrates their 25th Anniversary on Saturday, August 1, 2015 at Sheraton Mahwah Hotel, Mahwah, New Jersey. Kindly contact the association for further details.

## "Praise Cafe"

Sunday, February 15, 2015 @ 2:00 PM The International Ministry First Baptist Church of Crown Heights at 450 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn presents the second annual "Praise Cafe."

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- **1 out of every 5 homes** will experience a break-in or home invasion.<sup>2</sup>
- A home without a security system is **3 times more likely to be burglarized**.<sup>3</sup>
- **85% of Police Officials surveyed** believe home alarms deter burglary attempts.<sup>4</sup>

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 National Crime Report [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr\\_stats060109](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109) 2. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/press/vdhbpcr.htm> 3. FBI, 2008 National Crime Report [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr\\_stats060109](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109) 4. <http://www.beyondidentitytheft.com/home-security-statistics.html>

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## DRIVE TIME RADIO TO LAUNCH 'Community Drive For Wellness & Travel'

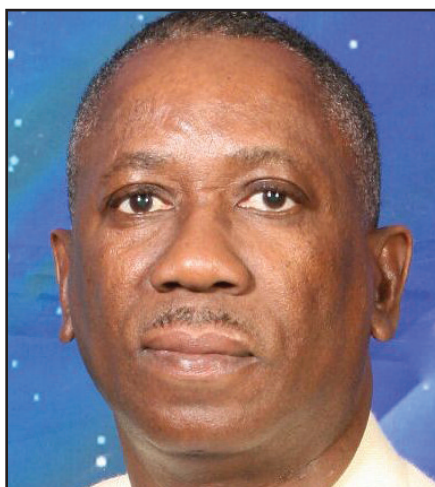
In its continued efforts to engage the Caribbean America communities across New York City to live longer, healthier lives through diet, exercise and wellness check-ups, Brooklyn-based Drive Time Radio - the Voice of the Caribbean - will launch a 'Community Drive for Wellness and Travel' 2015.

To kick start the campaign, Ken Stewart, CEO of Drive Time Radio said the station will host its first live radio 'Community Drive for Wellness and Travel' broadcast on Saturday, February 21 from Far Rockaway in Queens, New York to put focus on health care issues.

"Drive Time Radio remains committed to improving the health and well-being of our Caribbean American brothers and sisters in the Diaspora so beginning in Black History Month 2015, we will kick off this new initiative which will empower and educate our listeners with important information that they can use to live healthier lives" Stewart said.

"We will visit hospitals, Urgent Care Centers, clinics, churches, schools, restaurants and businesses, disseminate health and wellness brochures and speak directly with health care experts" he noted.

For the travel component, Barbara Whittaker, VP of Marketing and Sales disclosed that she is putting together guided tours and travel packages to tropical destinations in the USA and the Caribbean, and a fly away opportunity to Jamaica with the Drive Time Team.



KEN STEWART



Barbara Whittaker

"We are constantly surveying our listeners and responding directly to their needs" Whittaker said.



## Meet Lady Genius

Lady Genius is one of the newest addition to the Reggae Arena acknowledged worldwide. The 25-years-old Libra grew up in Jamaica and started a professional musical career as a recording artiste in mid 2013, even though the singer was always performing on live shows several years before.

Lady Genius has performed on some of the most recognized live shows includes Jazz and Blues Festival 2013 held in Jamaica, Mobay Jerk Fest 2013, Caribbean Shrimp Fest and other events held in Canada, Florida, Atlanta, Nashville, Mississippi, Cayman Islands, and Antigua.

She has shared stage with AJ Brown, Taddy P, Anthony Malvo and is currently endorsed by and affiliated with artistes such as Silver Cat, Beenie Man, Nesbeth, Mackie Conscious, Ian Sweetness, Ed Robinson, Peter Lloyd among many others both locally and abroad.

The reggae singer and model has released singles including *Suitcase* which was performed a live band; *One Drop Instrumentation Riddim Track*, a reggae cover version of Rihanna's *Stay*, *Hurt You* featuring Anthony Malvo, *Nah Stop Try*, and produced by Push Hitz Records in New York City.

- ladygeniusmusic@gmail.com

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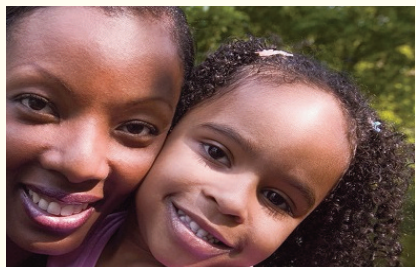
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The application period is open. Apply between January 7 and February 13 in one of three ways:

**Online**, on this website, in ten languages; over the **phone** at 718-935-2400 or in **person**, at a Family Welcome Center.

For more information, call 718-935-2009 or visit [nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten](http://nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten).

## OPPORTUNITY

### DR. ALMA S. ADAMS SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now being accepted for the Dr. Alma S. Adams Scholarship for Outreach and Health Communications to Reduce Tobacco Use Among Priority Populations.

Priority populations are those populations that are disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry, or who often lack the tools and resources to combat smoking in their communities.\* The scholarship, named for founding Legacy board member, Dr. Alma S. Adams will award two \$5,000 scholarships to pursue undergraduate or graduate studies at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, books and related living expenses while attending any accredited college or university.

The awards will be granted on a competitive basis for the following: a) a record of commitment to community service on behalf of an underserved community, related to tobacco prevention and/or control and b) the best use of the visual arts, media, creative writing or other creative endeavor to convey culturally appropriate health messages aimed at raising awareness of tobacco's harmful impact.

#### Criteria

Applicant must provide evidence of community service activities in an underserved community setting. Service activities may

include activism, outreach, or peer counseling in tobacco prevention or control. The community service activity should be described in the personal statement.

Applicants must submit documentation of financial need for scholarship funds (SAR report).

Student pursuing a course of study in public health, communications, social work, education, liberal arts or a related field will be considered eligible.

Applicants must have a Grade Point Average of at least a 3.0 (B average) for the most recent academic year.

Student must be a United States citizen or a permanent legal resident to apply.

Priority populations include residents of low-income communities, U.S. racial/ethnic minorities (African American, Alaska Native, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander), the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender community and other populations that have significantly higher than average smoking prevalence rates.

Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2015. Awardees will be notified by June 30, 2015.

For more information, email [adamsscholarship@americanlegacy.org](mailto:adamsscholarship@americanlegacy.org).

## 4Star

## Talent to host talent workshop

In keeping with its mission to develop and expose talents, 4Star Talent Inc will be hosting its inaugural "Talent Recruitment Workshop," at The Radisson Hotel, One Radisson Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801 on Saturday, February 21.

According to the executive directive of 4Star Talent Inc, Tamikia Douglas the Workshop aims to educate untapped talent and fresh faces or anybody who have the desire to have a career in the performing art. "The entertainment industry is always seeking new and creative talents, but not many people are aware of the procedures and steps to consider," she noted.

Douglas who is the mother of ten-year-old Broadway star performer, Douglas Baldeo explains that the industry showcase is a way of giving back to the community. She wants to share the information gathered in helping to groom and guide her son to stardom.

*For further information and registration, please visit the [4startalent.com](http://4startalent.com) for call at 914 8797782.*

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# BEAUTY CARE



## How to Protect Your Hair in the Winter

Some types of Afro hair tend to be climate sensitive, for example the cold weather can cause slow growth, dry hair and breakage. Unfortunately, many people have a lack of knowledge on how to promote growth and prevent breakage during the winter months.

Below are some simple and quick steps to maintain growth within the winter.

**1 Get into a routine.** Try creating your own step by step routine for the mornings and nights, your hair will benefit from this during the cold months. (Your routine should include some form of moisture and protein)

**2 Cover your hair at night.** Some people wear satin wraps or bonnets to prevent friction with the hair and pillow case; others sleep with a satin pillowcase. However during the winter the air is colder at night, covering your hair at night will help keep the moisture in, if you want to you could try covering your hair with two satin scarfs or bonnets.

**3 Avoid chemicals.** Chemical and hair coloring treatments can damage the hair! Try to use protective hair styles such as

braids, buns, twists, and ponytails. You can also use added hair if you choose to. Wigs, weaves, and braid extensions can be helpful if you correctly take care of your real hair as well.

**4 Moisturize, moisturize, moisturize.** You should already be moisturizing your hair daily however, during the winter months it is crucial to keep on doing so. Afro American hair needs as much moisture as possible.

**5 Protect Your Hair in the Winter** (African American Hair Types) Step 5 Version #Oil your ends a little bit more. This doesn't mean over oil your hair, use thicker oils such as castor oil (or Jamaican black castor oil) which better seals the moisture in after you moisturize.

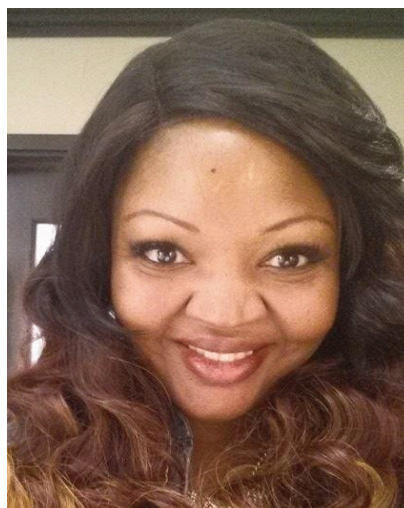
**6 Wear a hat!** It may seem like the most obvious solution however many people tend to forget. Make sure the hat isn't cotton or wool or it can actually suck the moisture out of your hair. Try using caps with a silky inside. If you don't like hats experiment with hair wraps. Look up the current hair wrap trends to look fashionable while protecting your hair.

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Some of the biographies in our book include: The Great Kings, such as, Imhotep, Ramses II (Usr-Maat-Ra Setepen Ra), and Hannibal; Great Queens, such as, Maat, Hatshepsut, and Queen Nefertiti. You will also see Notable Black Men, such as, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., and Kwame Nkrumah and Notable Black Women, such as, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Madame C.J. Walker. We excitedly ask that you join us on this educational and cultural journey, for the true history of Africa MUST be told.

Black people started out as the Greatest Kings and Queens

of Civilization, and although we faced outrageous atrocities (slavery, black holocaust), we remained STRONG, not broken and became the World's Greatest Inventors, Kings, Queens and Notable Black Men & Women.

We also have excellent Posters, such as: Black Inventors & their Inventions, Biographies of the Great Kings & Queens of Afrika and Notable Black Men & Women, Never

Forget Our Black Holocaust, The Willie Lynch Letter, and the Kemetic Chart.

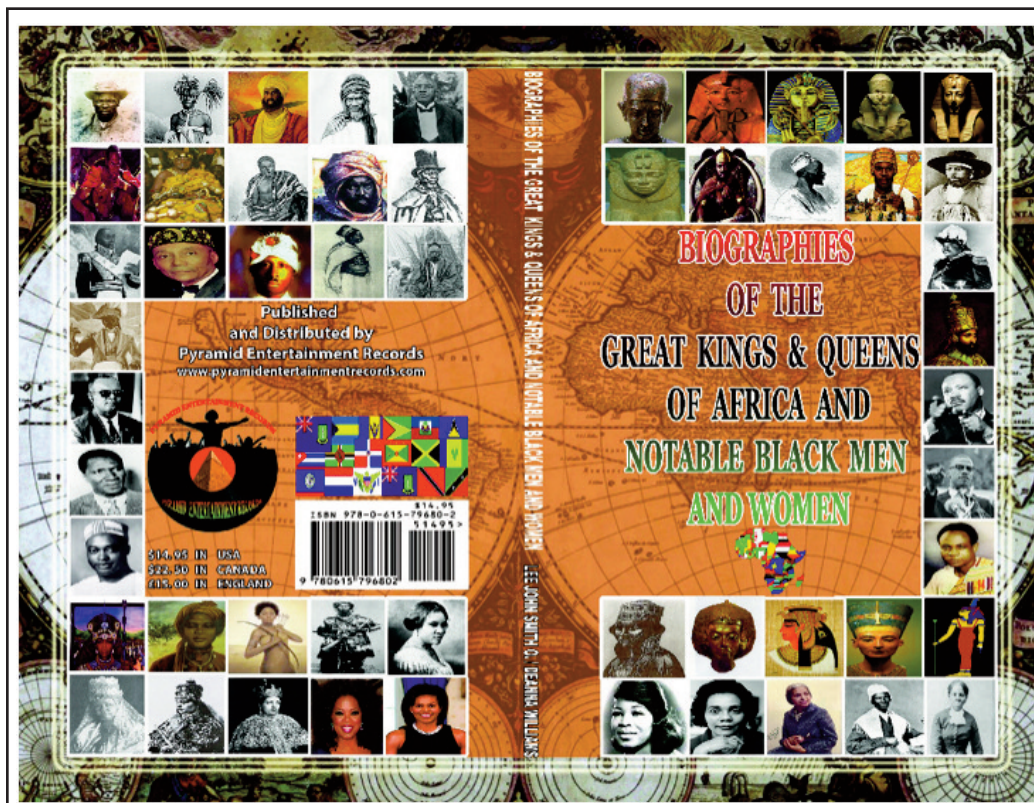
Our mission is to foster a greater cultural and educational awareness of Afrikan history by learning about the unique struggles, triumphs and contributions of Afrikan people worldwide.

We should always reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone, or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated.

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## LIFE STYLE

# Abusive Husband's Remarriage Brings His Ex-Wife to Tears

Dear Divine Diva:

Two years ago, I divorced my abusive husband of 23 years. However, when he remarried I fell apart. Friends we have in common tell me they are happy, and his new wife is "good for him." Thoughts of why he could change for someone else, but not for his own family (we had two sons). It has been a year since his wedding, and I am still hurting as if I want him back. Please help me.

*-Crying In White Plains, New York*

Dear Crying:

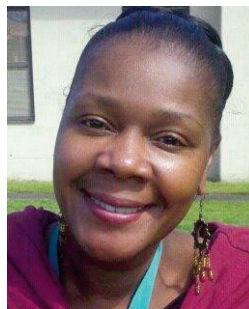
Dry your tears and straighten up. Your husband and his new wife are still newlyweds. Leopards don't Change their spots. His abuse of her may not have begun yet, because most abusers take some time to chisel- away at their victim's self-esteem

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before the actual abuse starts happening. Also, these "common friends" may not be privy to what goes on behind closed doors. Most abused women blame themselves for it, and are so ashamed they keep it a secret.

Because you are still hurting and comparing yourself unfavorably to the "new" missus, it's time to talk to your doctor about

a referral to a licensed psychotherapist who can talk this out with you. It will be money well spent. Consider it a shortcut to feeling better about yourself and the wise decision you made to get away from your abuser.

*-Always Divine Diva*

Please send questions and comments to Divine Diva • divinestreethype@gmail.com

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## HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Certain people may try to talk you down today but you won't let it happen. The more they try to convince you that certain goals are beyond your reach the more determined you will be to prove them wrong.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): The planets are urging you to be open and friendly and show the world you have nothing to hide – even if you actually have plenty to hide!

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Your main aim today and over the weekend must be to push yourself harder and get the best from yourself. Believe in your abilities and believe that you are capable of more and, in time, your belief will make it a fact.

**CANCER** (June 22 -July 23): Mars and Pluto are nicely aligned today and you could not wish for a better influence to get things done. It is, of course, up to you what you choose to do with your time and your energy but whatever it is you must do it BIG.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23): Keep your problems in perspective over the next 24 hours. You may wish that life was easier but in the greater scheme of things your “problems” are hardly worth worrying about – in fact they are opportunities for you to grow.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): According to the planets you can do a lot of people a lot of good but only if you join forces with those who share your opinions and beliefs and focus on the same goals.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): One way or another you will soon be moving up in the world, which is good news for

you but bad news for your rivals who will be moving down. Don't waste time feeling sorry for them.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): You have a simple choice today and over the weekend: either you stand by your principles and lose out financially or you reject your ideals and make lots of money. Ask yourself this: How much will it cost you to buy your principles back?

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): You keep asking yourself all sorts of questions but the answers are so slow in coming. Don't let it worry you because some answers always take longer to arrive than others. Just be patient and keep that big brain of yours ticking over.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): Certain people may be making life tough for you for no apparent reason but that is no reason to feel sorry for yourself or start complaining that life is unfair. Of course it's unfair, that's part of the fun.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): You may feel unprepared for the challenges that are coming your way but when it's time to act you will do so with courage and confidence. You may be a nice guy by nature but you can be decisive, even ruthless, when the need arises.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): Your luck is well and truly in at the moment and if you don't believe that now you will believe it over the weekend. Ask yourself what you would attempt to do if you knew that success was guaranteed – then do it and enjoy the rewards.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION**  
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX  
Index No. 251492-2011

*Richard Gordon Petitioner(s), against- Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, NA as Trustee in Trust for Registered Holders of First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust 2003\_FF1 Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2003; Etal Defendant(s).*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action has been commenced and is now pending against the above named defendants pursuant to the applicable provisions of NY RPP LAW § 392 : NY Code - Section 392 to recover the property, NYRPL 1941; NYRPL 1944; NYRPL 1946 for QUIET TITLE.

Pursuant to NY RPP Law any title registration procured by or as the result of fraud may be set aside in the same manner and by the same proceedings as in the case of a deed obtained by fraud; provided further that the action or other proceeding to set aside such registration be commenced within ten years from the time when the final order or judgment of registration was filed in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the property is located.

Whenever real property shall have been conveyed by sheriff or referee, pursuant to judicial decree, which decree has been lost or destroyed, and the defendants (other than lienors or incumbrances) named in the Notice of Pendency of the action in which such decree was made, or those who might claim under them, or either of them, are dead, or unknown, or their whereabouts can not after diligent inquiry be ascertained, the person who has been, for ten years in actual possession of such property claiming it in fee under said sheriffs or referees deed, which deed shall have been recorded at least ten years, may maintain a special proceeding for the purpose of establishing judicially his or their title to such real property.

Pursuant to NYRPL 1944 the court shall make a FINAL ORDER declaring the title of the Petitioner to such real property have been judicially established and shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the BRONX COUNTY, in which the real property is situated and that order is evidence to restore property under the law and maintained against the defendants, etal. under NYRPL 1941.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the premises affected by the said QUIET TITLE action and NY RPP LAW § 392 : NY Code - Section 392 to recover the property, were, at the time of commencement of said action, and at the time of the filing of this notice situate in District 12, Section \_17, Block 4872, and Lot 68 on the land and tax map of the County of BRONX in the State of New York, and is more fully described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, with the buildings and improvements thereon, erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of the Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as Lot No. 151 on a certain map entitled "Map of 329 choice lots, being part of the Schieffelin Estate, situate in the 24th Ward of New York City" Borough of Bronx, Made by Charles A. Mapes, C.E. and C.S., dated May 25, 1906 as Map No. 1114A, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the southerly side of East 226th Street, distance 183.01 feet westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the southerly side of East 226th Street with the westerly side of Laconia Ave;

RUNNING THENCE southerly at right angles to the southerly side of East 226th Street, 109.01 feet;

THENCE westerly parallel with the southerly side of East 226th street, 25ft;

THENCE northerly again at right angles to the southerly side of East 226th Street 109.01 to the southerly side of East 226th Street;

THENCE easterly along the southerly side of East 226th Street, 25 feet to point or place of BEGINNING.

TOGETHER with all right, title and interest of the defendants in and to the land lying in the streets and roads in front of and adjoining said premises.

## HOME SERVICES



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## HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION

## Health Insurance Deadline for New Yorkers -Feb 15

The Health Department and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) recently launched a new ad campaign to remind New Yorkers that they may qualify for a health insurance plan available through the Affordable Care Act at no cost.

To find help signing up for health insurance before the open enrollment period ends on Feb. 15, New Yorkers can call 311 or text "CoveredNYC" or "SeguroNYC" to 877877 to get connected with someone who can help them enroll for health insurance in person. The new ads will run on subways and buses and in businesses through Feb. 15.

Health Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett made this announcement at NYC 311's Call Center, where she was joined by NYC 311 Executive Director Joe Morrisroe, Mayor's Office of Health Insurance/Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Commissioner Nisha Agarwal, Human Resources Administration (HRA) Commissioner Steven Banks, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Marjorie Cadogan, Executive Deputy Commissioner for Citywide Health Insurance Access at HRA.

Yorkers qualify for health insurance at no cost. Call 311 or text CoveredNYC to 877877 to find help today."

## Getting the most from fruit and vegetables

• Don't buy fruit and vegetable dishes that come with sauces. They often contain a lot of fat, salt and sugar.

• Dried, frozen and tinned products can be just as good as fresh, but watch out for added salt, sugar or fats.

• Vary the types of fruit and vegetables you eat. Each has different health benefits and it will keep your meals interesting. By eating a wide range of fruit and vegetables, you will ensure that your body is getting all the nutrients it needs.

• Don't add sugar to fruit or salt to vegetables when you cook or serve them.

• Try to eat fresh fruit and vegetables as soon as possible. They will lose their nutrients over time, so if you want to store your ingredients for a while, it is best to freeze them or buy frozen packets.

• Avoid leaving vegetables open to the air, light or heat if they have been cut. Always cover and chill them, but don't soak them because the vitamins and minerals can dissolve away.

### NUTRICARE

By  
**GLORIA BENT,**  
MS, RD, CDN  
Nutritionist

Questions & Comments:  
[Gloria.Bent@gmail.com](mailto:Gloria.Bent@gmail.com)



• Vegetables keep more of their vitamins and minerals if you lightly steam or bake them, instead of boiling or frying them.

• If you boil vegetables, use as little water as possible to help keep the vitamins and minerals in them.

• Experiment with other ways of cooking vegetables, such as roasting or grilling them, for new tastes and flavours.

• Stir-fries are great for getting lots of vegetables into one meal. So are freshly-made soups.

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## Family tax relief credit

The family tax relief credit is a \$350 payment to certain middle-income New Yorkers.

For 2014, the Tax Department has already mailed checks to eligible taxpayers. Eligible taxpayers did not need to apply. If you

think you are eligible, but did not receive a check, you will be able to have your case reviewed.

### Eligibility requirements

You are entitled to this credit for 2014 if, on your 2012 personal income tax return, you:

- were a resident of New York State for the entire year,
- claimed at least one child under age 17 as a dependent,
- had New York State adjusted gross income (line 33 of your Form IT-201) between \$40,000 and \$300,000, and had a New York State liability after credits that was zero or greater.

### How to claim the credit

If you filed a 2012 return and met the four eligibility requirements above, you should have received your 2014 credit in the mail sometime between late September and early October.

In 2015 and 2016, eligible taxpayers will claim the credit when they file their income tax returns. Eligibility for those years will be based on that year's return.

### How to file your 2014 return

When you file your 2014 New York State income tax return, you must indicate on the return whether you received the \$350 check for the family tax relief credit. The amount of the credit does not need to be reported in your taxable income and will not be included in any 1099-G you receive.

Use our Family Tax Relief Credit Refund Lookup tool to verify you were mailed a check: *If you did not receive a check*

If you did not receive a check, please review your 2012 return to make sure you meet the eligibility requirements listed above. If you e-filed your 2012 return, you can view and print a copy online.

If you still feel you are eligible, you may apply to have your return reviewed for eligibility.

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